

MUSIC

Its Role, Qualities, and Influence

**As Set Forth in the Writings of
Ellen G. White**

A Compilation of Materials Assembled
For the Study of the 1972
Task Force on the Philosophy of Music

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Silver Spring, Maryland
1972 (Retyped June 2003)

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A Word From the Compiler

In view of the forthcoming task force study of music, the White Estate was requested to compile E. G. White materials which would have a bearing on the matter to be considered by the Committee. In doing so, both published and unpublished sources have been drawn from. It is mainly as we think in terms of the counsels enunciating principles, then applying these principles, that E. G. White counsels can be brought to have direct bearing on some of the matters

1. The Role of Music

The Power of Song. --The history of the songs of the Bible is full of suggestion as to the uses and benefits of music and song. Music is often perverted to serve purposes of evil, and it thus becomes one of the most alluring agencies of temptation. But, rightly employed, it is a precious gift of God, designed to uplift the thoughts to high and noble themes, to inspire and elevate the soul.

To Impress Spiritual Truth. --Song is one of the most effective means of impressing spiritual truth upon the heart. Often by the words of sacred song, the springs of penitence and faith have been unsealed. --*Review and Herald*, June 6, 1912.

A Means to Conserve Christian Experience. --Evening and morning join with your children in God's worship, reading His Word and singing His praise. Teach them to repeat God's law. Concerning

He Sang Songs of Praise. --Often He expressed the gladness of His heart by singing psalms and heavenly songs. Often the dwellers in Nazareth heard His voice raised in praise and thanksgiving to God. He held communion with heaven in song; and as His companions complained of weariness from labor, they were cheered by the sweet melody from His lips. His praise seemed to banish the evil angels, and, like incense, fill the place with fragrance. The minds of His hearers were carried away from their earthly exile, to the heavenly home. --*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 73, 74

Music was made to serve a holy purpose, to lift the thoughts to that which is pure, noble, and elevating, and to awaken in the soul devotion and gratitude to God. What a contrast between the ancient custom and the uses to which music is now too often devoted! How many employ this gift to exalt self, instead of using it to glorify God! A love for music leads the unwary to unite with world lovers in pleasure gatherings where God has forbidden His children to go. Thus that which is a great blessing when rightly used, becomes one of the most successful agencies by which Satan allures the mind from duty and from the contemplation of

